



Illustrations by Rita Reis

Children's Book: Concept Overview

An anthology of stories for sustainable place-shaping produced by the SUSPLACE Innovative Training Network

Story Teasers

When visiting her family in the countryside, what will a city girl discover in her grandmother's antique chest and how will it change her forever?

Will a chubby carrot and her wonderful friends manage to navigate the gutters of the city and reach the composting site?

What happens when a sensible, but homesick, young girl finds magic in her neighborhood with a crew of unusual new friends?

Why

Einstein once said: "If you can't explain something to a 6 year old, you don't understand it yourself." In the field of sustainability science, we often face the challenge of effectively communicating the key messages and themes of our research to a wider audience. In order to distill our findings into sticky and engaging stories, we are in the process of writing an anthology of short tales for children. These stories are intended to enthuse children and reach their open minds and open hearts, inspiring their imaginations.

What

We are a group of six researchers working with an EU research and training network focused on the topic of Sustainable Place Shaping (SUSPLACE). We are writing and overseeing the design and publication of a short children's book (ca. 50 pages) comprised of six stories (3000 words/story). The fictional plots will be inspired from our own case studies and will be linked through overlapping themes and characters. Specifically, the stories are intended to stimulate feelings of empathy, care and compassion for others, interdependence, appreciation for traditional practices, and a sense of agency and empowerment. While the book is aimed at children aged 6-9, it will appeal to the young at heart of all ages as we engage in place-based transformations towards sustainability.

The book will also be an educational resource and a means for science communication: each story will be accompanied by a few proposals for follow-up activities, facts and explanations, or suggestions for further readings. This will give curious readers the opportunity to dive deeper into the topics and give teachers support when using the book in their classrooms.



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Look and Feel

Distinguished by a stylish and whimsical look, this book will include humor and a sense of magical realism. Artist Rita Reis has been engaged as our designer and illustrator. For more of her work, see: <https://www.facebook.com/rita.reis.9674>

Our Plan

The SUSPLACE Children Book will be published as a free online resource that can be ordered in an epub or print version (via on-demand printing). The budget is estimated at 8 to 9 thousand Euros and will cover professional editing, design, illustration, and a limited number of printed copies, as well as coaching in storytelling for sustainability and children's book writing. We have engaged an expert to give us structured guidance as we develop each individual story.

The final printing and publication date is set for April 2019.

Contact and Support

For more information on how you can support our project please contact: AxinteL@cardiff.ac.uk

Learn more about the SUSPLACE project at: susplace.net

Thank you for your time and interest!

Best Regards,

Anastasia Papangelou, Alessandro Vasta, Angela Moriggi, Kelli Rose Pearson, Lorena Axinte, Marta Nieto Romero